

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action dated 4/7/2005, the above-identified application has been amended. Applicant's counsel made several telephone calls to the Examiner in an effort to discuss the above amendments prior to filing the same and due to counsel's upcoming unavailability has submitted this amendment prior to the due date. Applicant's counsel requested an interview to discuss the amended claims and therefore requests that the Examiner review and reconsider the case in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Additionally, any suggestion the Examiner may have in placing the case in condition for allowance is appreciated.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Neff. The Examiner asserted such claims were anticipated by Neff.

Applicant respectfully traverses. Neff is directed to a suspended ceiling system. Neff discloses a joint cover member 122 as shown in FIG. 7. The cover member 122 has the shape of a plus sign and include four pairs of inwardly-turned, flat, horizontally-projecting flanges 124 with one pair of flanges 124 for each arm 126 of the cover members 122. Each cover member 122 is disposed to cover the intersection points of the grid where one pair of cross braces 96 intersects one main runner 94 at a right angle or the gap formed where one main runner 94 follows or precedes another main runner 94 in their extension across the room and also where two cross braces 96 meet at the main runners 94 and are connected perpendicularly thereto. The cover members 122 are adapted to permanently fit over the flanges 108 and 116 to cover the slight gaps formed where these structural members and are joined together in the

framework 84 so that an individual viewing the drop ceiling will see a continuous wood grain grid, col. 10, lines 41-57.

The present invention is amended to further characterize the device such that once the cross-tee is so connected to the main-tee to form a permanent cross structure portion of the grid, the device is so configured to be slidably removed from the permanent cross structure portion. The Neff's cover 122 is permanently connected to the cross structure once the cross member and main member (94 and 96) are inserted in the horizontally-projecting flanges 124 of the cross member 122. Thus, there is no reusable device for aiding installation provided by Neff similar to that of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended the claims now overcome the rejection thereto. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Neff. The Examiner states the device 68 of Neff renders obvious the eyelet of the invention.

Applicant kindly traverses. Neff shows a suspension clip 68 which includes an aperture 78 which is used to suspend the grid from the ceiling. The aperture 78 is on the back of the clip 68 and in no way is it clear that the aperture 78 is formed on the clip 68 to provide the functionality of the eyelet of the instant invention which is disposed at the junction of the 90 degree connection of the cross members. This is important in enabling an accurate and consistent starting point for which to tag a line of string proximate the plane of the cross-tee/main-tee. This cannot be done using the clip of Neff.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patentably distinct over the Neff and overcomes the rejection thereto. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Johnson. The Examiner states Johnson discloses a similar method as claimed in claim 7.

Applicant has amended claim 7. Unlike Johnson, the present invention provides for a quick method for aligning suspended ceilings. Johnson shows a bracket with a pivoting arm used to envelope and hold a beam in place with respect to another beam. The pivoting arm 18 must be locked in place using a latch 25. The present invention's method is clearly unique and not obvious in view of Johnson and in view of the amendments and remarks above.

Accordingly, claims 1-11 appear to be in condition for allowance and the same is requested at as early a date as possible. This is intended to be complete response to the Official Action dated 4/12/2005.

Respectfully submitted,

/R. William Graham/ 33891

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed with the PTO for group 3635 on the date shown below.

Date. June 28, 2006 R. William Graham, 33,891